

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Chatting up the garden gnomes since 1911.

Wednesday, November 23, 1992

Teaching assistants to vote on union this week Organizers expect vote in favour

BY FIONA MCCAW

Union organizers are optimistic that teaching assistants will approve the formation of a new union in this week's referendum.

Voting will take place on both McGill campuses on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

Civil Engineering TA and union organizer Georges Karam was confident that TAs will vote in favour of a union.

"I think we're going to win," said Karam. "We're having a big favourable response from all the departments."

Teaching assistants are currently paid differently according to which department they belong to. In some departments, TAs are well-paid, while in others they receive only token payments.

Organizers say a union would ensure all TAs are paid fairly, while not endangering the salaries of better-paid TAs.

But sociology TA and union organizer Jean-Pierre Bordeau said support for the union was not limited to badly-paid TAs.

"A few of the departments that are doing really well are supporting the union," he said.

"We know there's a huge majority 'Yes' out there," said Bordeau. "We just hope they go out and vote."

Bordeau said he was worried not enough teaching assistants would bother to go to the polling stations (located in room 110 of the Arts Building and in the administration building at Macdonald College).

"There are many first year students who don't know where the Arts building is," said Bordeau.

If too few TAs turn out to vote, union organizers will petition the government to allow an extension of polling.

Karam said there was no organized opposition to the union. "The only people who were complaining were complaining about not being informed."

Bordeau and Karam said organizers had worked hard to give teaching assistants information about the union.

Bordeau said the organizers had sent information packages to all TAs on the list provided by McGill. They also held meetings in many departments, informing TAs about the union.

Regina Harrison, an anthropology TA said she intends to vote in favour of the union in the referendum.

"TAs in anthropology are pretty well treated, but it doesn't seem fair to me that the others have to be treated worse," said Harrison.

"And we don't lose anything because of Québec labour laws," she said.

Harrison said teaching assistants in her department were satisfied with the amount of information sent out in campus publications and meetings in the department.

"The general feeling in anthropology is that we are pretty well informed," she said.

Tremendous disparities

Antony Blanc, a TA in biochemistry, said he supports the union.

"We do a lot of hours and we get paid less than in other departments," said Blanc.

"In Biology they get twice as much as we do. Maybe if we had a union we could get some pay equity," he said.

Blanc said he was well informed about the union because he had been involved in organizing earlier this year. But he did not know when and where polling would take place this week. He said biochemistry TAs in general lacked information.

"To tell the truth, people around here don't hear anyone talking about the union," said Blanc.

Bessie Asimakopoulou, a TA in Hispanic Studies was uncertain about whether she supports the referendum.

"I'm really not sure," said Asimakopoulou. "I still have to read up on it." She said other TAs in her department were well informed.

A 1991 survey conducted by the Post-graduate students' society

found tremendous disparities in salary between TAs from different departments. There are no guaranteed minimum wage levels.

The survey found that most TAs lacked benefits such as health and dental benefits, sick leave, maternity leave and vacation pay. Often maximum weekly workload rules were ignored. Some TAs complained of substandard or hazardous workplaces.

Bordeau said the new union will do a lot to better this situation. He said that at universities with TA unions, TAs are better paid and have more benefits than at McGill.

Bordeau said if the new union is approved, the next thing on the

agenda will be to democratically decide on a constitution.

"The first thing we'd do is call a general assembly," said Bordeau. "We'd get volunteers to work on committees on the constitution, to come up with a statement that everyone can live with."

He said other volunteers would work on committees asking TAs from different departments about their needs, putting together a collective agreement so the new union could negotiate with the university.

Polling stations are in the Macdonald-Stewart building, and Arts 110. Polling will be conducted from 9h to 18h Tuesday, 9h to 21h Wednesday and 9h to 18h Thursday.

Suburban mayors ignore citizens Residents oppose new incinerator plan

BY DAMION STODOLA

Suburban mayors told their electorate to "shut up and sit down" last Thursday at an inter-suburban council meeting which met to discuss new plans to build a second incinerator on the island.

Tempers flared as over 300 residents, who have been kept in the dark for six years, released a barrage of attacks on their elected mayors.

The Régie Intermunicipale de Gestion des Déchets sur l'Île de Montréal is an association of the island's 26 suburban municipalities. The City of Montréal is not a member.

The Régie has spent over \$8 million dollars over six years studying and analyzing different proposals to find alternative ways of disposing its garbage.

In November 1989 an American firm, Foster Wheeler, was promised \$263 million to build a composting station, a recycling and sorting station, and a brand new incinerator capable of burning over 400 000 metric tonnes of solid waste per year.

No one was consulted. One citizen asked the mayors if they intended to consult their constituencies further on the matter, to which the mayors answered, "No."

Don Wedge, a volunteer at STOP (a waste management lobby group), said this is the first public meeting the Régie has ever had.

"They have been meeting behind closed doors for six years without consulting any of the residents," said Wedge.

While the mayors claimed they contacted the public through polls which showed overwhelming support for the incinerator plan, residents said the mayors had fixed the results.

The council has not divulged any contracts for public scrutiny nor has it fulfilled its promise to hold an



open debate on the issue.

The meeting was scheduled for 20h30, followed by question period. Conveniently for the mayors, question period did not start until 22h45, when camera crews had left.

Wedge said the mayors were just trying to appease angry citizens. "This whole meeting is a PR exercise designed to show the public what a wonderful job they have been doing," said Wedge.

"If Ontario jumped off a bridge—"

During question period, residents unanimously expressed disapproval of the incinerator project.

Citizens asked if the Régie in-

tended to analyse other, more environmental processes in lieu of the incinerator, but Leduc refused.

"Don't tell us how to do our work," said Leduc. "We have done our homework and we will not be told to do it again."

Constantly interrupted by dissatisfied citizens, Leduc became increasingly annoyed and told people to "shut up and sit down".

Leduc went so far as to tell people who were dissatisfied to get themselves elected if they wanted change.

The incinerator plan, formed in 1988-89, has not been signed yet, and residents feel there are better systems than incineration.

Marvin Rotrand, Democratic Coalition councillor for Snowdon,

has long opposed the plan.

"Building a new incinerator will undercut our current recycling efforts," said Rotrand.

Wedge agreed, saying the plan, which gives Foster Wheeler a 20 year contract, effectively reduced the importance of recycling and reducing.

"They are putting the recycling and reducing issues on the backburner," said Wedge.

"In Ontario, they have said incinerators are dangerous to the public's health and incompatible with the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle)," said one resident.

Leduc replied that the Régie doesn't intend to follow Ontario. "If Ontario jumped off a bridge, we wouldn't follow," he said.

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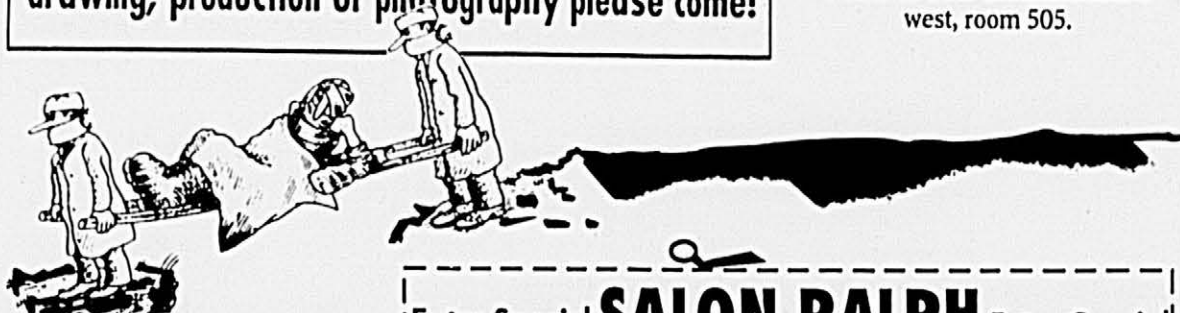
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*the Daily Design and
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events

The Latin American Awareness Group meets in 302 of the Union at 17:00 today. All welcome.

The International Relations Society's final meeting at 18h30 in Leacock 26. Yearbook pictures and sign up for term 2 conferences.

Women in Science and Engineering meets today in Union 423 at 19h.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement of Concordia invites you to a lecture on the current constitutional crisis in South Africa by Victor Moshe, the chief rep of the ANC in Canada at 20h15 in 1445 deMaisonneuve west, room 505.


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 6:00 p.m.

 Frank Dawson Adams Auditorium
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 Thursday, November 26, 1992, 1:30 p.m.
 Leacock Council Room, Stephen Leacock Building, Room 232.

Dawn Black promotes affirmative action

DAWN BLACK, the member of parliament for New Westminster-Burnaby, BC, and NDP women's issues critic thinks Canada is ready for a female prime minister.

On Wednesday night, a receptive crowd composed mainly of New Democratic Party members, listened to her speak at McGill about the need for affirmative action policies.

"Women make up 52 per cent of the population but hold less than 13 per cent of seats in the House of Commons," she said.

Her personal experience promoting 'women's issues' such as breast cancer research, national child care and reproductive choice has convinced Black that more women must be involved in politics.

Black discussed the debate over bill C-43 designed to re-criminalize abortion.

"When I looked out on the members of Parliament and saw middle-aged men talking about the issue of abortion, I thought it was an affront to all women," she said.

Black's talk was aimed at encouraging women to participate in mainstream politics. But she ac-

Desperate need for more female politicians

BY KATHY BUNKA

knowledge that entering politics was not an easy thing to do.

"I believe that we have to join together to overcome the economic and social inequality of women before women can participate equally in political life in this country," she

help all economically disadvantaged candidates by putting them on an equal playing field," she said.

The social barriers are even more implacable than the economic ones she said.

"There are still a lot of people

ily or being involved in neighbourhood associations involves organizational skills that can be translated into political skills said Black.

"Women have lots of education and intelligence that presently is

"When I looked out on the members of Parliament and saw middle-aged men talking about the issue of abortion, I thought it was an affront to all women," she said.

said.

"Otherwise politics will remain open mainly to men and to a few very privileged women," she added.

To overcome the fact that women generally earn less money than men, Black advocates spending limits for election campaigns.

"Placing a ceiling on spending will not only help women but will

out there who can't grasp that a member of parliament could be anything other than a man."

Black said part of the problem is that women are still expected to take the primary responsibility in raising a family.

Black believes that stereotypes can be overcome and can work to women's advantage. Raising a fam-

not being tapped into."

After she had worked for many years for the NDP — doing the 'drudgework' of political organization — Black was elected in 1988 to the House of Commons. Having overcome the barriers to being elected she encountered more barriers in Canada's highest institution.

"There were little messages for me all the time that said: you don't belong here."

The first invitation she received after being elected was addressed to a Mr. Don Black. Ms. Dawn Black promptly phoned down to the speaker's office to say that she was not a man. As a reminder of this incident she now keeps both the initial and the revised invitations on the wall in her office.

Black told the story of a male colleague who greeted her with the comment, "It will be so much more

pleasant to look at you across the table." Her retort was, "How much of what I say will you hear?"

Initially, journalists who reported on her performance as a member of Parliament took note not only of her oratory but of her makeup, clothes and hairstyle. One reporter wrote that she looked like she had just wandered in from the steno-pool.

"If I had known this would happen I never would have run for office," said Black.

Black said she is proud to be a member of the New Democratic Party because the party has been a vanguard in promoting equal male and female representation.

"The NDP Party was the first party to institute funding for female candidates," she said.

In addition to providing campaign funds, the NDP has enshrined gender equality in their constitution. "Today 50 per cent of the decision-makers in the NDP are women," she said.

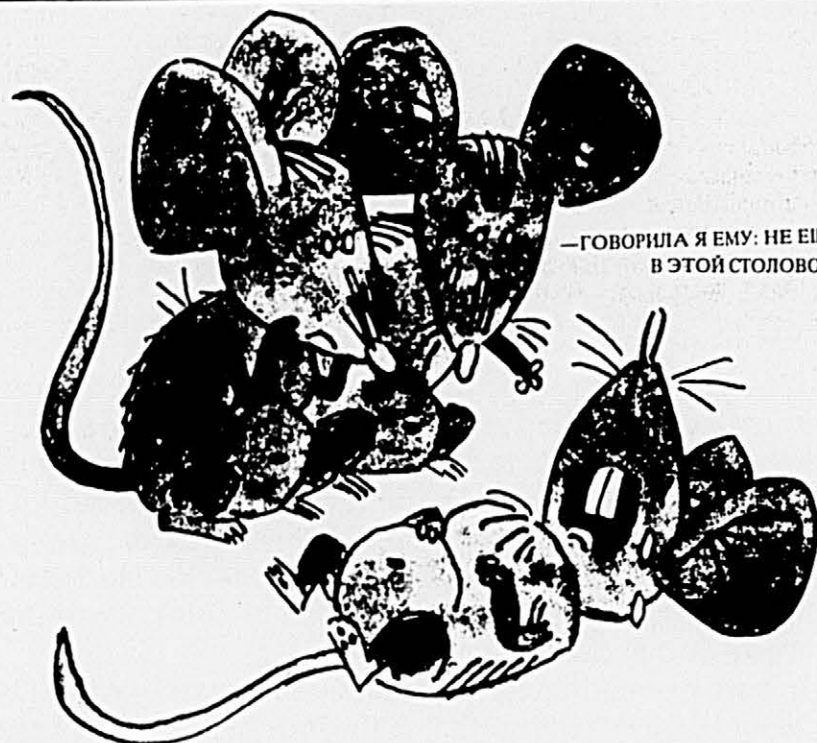
As a measure of the success of affirmative action policy, Black noted that New Democrat Audrey McLaughlin was the first woman to be elected leader of any national political party in North America.

And she criticized other political parties for their failure to implement similar policies.

"In the entire history of the House of Commons only 81 women have been elected," she said. "If all of those 81 women were there today, they would not even make up one-third of the members in the lower chamber."

"The politics of this country belong to all of us, not just a chosen few," she said.

CUP briefs



Women still earning less

WINNIPEG (CUP) — A Statistics Canada study has found that women professors still earn less than their male counterparts at Canadian universities.

The study compared the pay of full-time instructors at 19 different Canadian schools. On average, women earned \$9000 less than men. At some schools, women earned as much as \$17 000 less than men.

Only Edmonton's Concordia College paid female instructors a higher average salary. Women earned an average of \$50 669 as opposed to \$48 711, the salary men earned.

The report cautioned many factors can influence the salary figures, including "the age and qualification profiles of the teaching staff and the number of years in the ranks."

— Michelle Paquette

Fuck Chuck

TORONTO (CUP) — Backlash against a poster encouraging Princess Di to "Fuck Chuck" and attend a York University campus club's Halloween dance has its designer angry.

"I don't understand why this is such a big deal," said John Vieira, who designed the poster. "We were censored because some parents complained and the

poster upset the chair of the club coalition," he said. "I can't believe this happened at York."

"It's kind of serious if we have parents complaining as well as students," said Judith Lewis, chair of the clubs coalition at York.

The poster included a photo of Princess Di and the quote, "I'm damn tired out of sitting on my ass and playing with my royal jewels! Fuck Chuck."

"You have to be especially careful when you are talking about an identifiable group," said Ian Bell, a student politician at York. After speaking to club administrators, the posters were taken down and the situation appeared to be settled.

"I'm totally satisfied and am prepared to put the situation behind us," said Bell last week, who had nothing but good things to say about the clubs' response to the complaints.

Lewis then asked Vieira to speak with the clubs review committee to discuss the complaint.

"It offended me personally, being part British, to include the British [royal] family," Lewis said. "But that had nothing to do with my talking to the club. I was just responding to a complaint."

Princess Diana could not be reached for comment.

— John Montesano

Students' Society to hire research officer

BY JACK FREEMONT

Students' Society has decided to create a permanent, paid position for a political research officer, at last Thursday's Council meeting. But some councillors wondered how the Society could afford it, and how the new employee would be accountable to the student body.

The research officer would research and keep files on issues of interest to Students' society. The research officer would be a salaried employee, staying from year to year as executives change.

Science representative Aubrey Kassirer worried that the permanence of the research officer would put the officer in a position where he could manipulate elected executives.

"This person will know more than the executives. This person will have a lot of power," said science rep Aubrey Kassirer.

Vp external Jeff Percival had a different idea of the effects of a permanent political researcher.

"It's an investment in political

continuity," he said.

And vp university affairs Monique Shebbeare added, "Our political side is lacking, and this is the way to pull it up."

Some councillors felt the Society spends enough on staff already. "There's five people in accounting and still clubs have trouble getting their cheques on time," said clubs rep Edward Saad.

Other councillors were confused about whether the money had been allocated for the new employee.

"I don't remember council approving this in the budget," said clubs rep Olga Patrizi.

Law rep Christophe Sicking replied "The money has been passed for this. The reason you don't know it is because the night we passed the budget everyone was watching the baseball game."

Sicking was referring to the World series game between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Atlanta Braves, on Thursday October 22. Attendance in council was sparse on that evening.



CPPA INDUSTRY ANNUAL REPORT 1991

PULP & PAPER INDUSTRY TOO IMPORTANT TO LOSE

Gord Perks, spokesperson at Greenpeace Canada said the pulp and paper industry is too important to let it fade away due to mismanagement and poor environmental practices.

Indirectly employing over 1 million people, pulp and paper is the largest manufacturing industry in Canada in terms of exports and employment.

"The industry is being managed into economic and environmental ruin by a few wealthy, profiteering families," said Perks. "The pulp and paper industry is one of the cornerstones of the Canadian economy and we cannot let it be run into the ground."

Perks maintains the industry needs a new philosophy in the management of the industry. "We need more than technical solutions here and there," said Perks.

According to Perks, the industry has practised economic blackmail on two governments, forcing them to legislate weak regulations.

Perks said the industry has spent millions on lobbying and researching ways to delay government regulations by threatening mill closures.

Daniel Green, president of la Société pour Vaincre la Pollution, said the industry has clouded the debate by publishing massive amounts of scientific research contradicting environmental findings.

"Science is controversy and the industry is using that to claim there is not enough proof that what they're doing is wrong," said Green. "But we can't wait for unanimous consent on the issue because meanwhile there is no regulation and mills continue to pollute."

Green said if we want to protect the environment, we can't always wait for unanimous proof — we must act quickly.

Not a sunset industry

Pierre Lachance, media relations officer for the Canadian Pulp & Paper Association said the industry has made giant strides in improving its impact on the environment. "We are not a sunset industry," he said.

Toxic substances such as dioxins and furans (the active ingredients in Agent Orange) have been reduced by 95 per cent from 300 grams per year to 15 grams per year. Total suspended solids have been reduced by 92 per cent since 1960.

The use of chlorine, which gives rise to other toxic substances, has been reduced by 50 per cent since 1988. And the industry has reduced biochemical oxygen demand, which depletes rivers of oxygen, by 78 per cent since 1960.

"Between 1960 and 1990, the industry through its research was able to reduce by half the amount of water needed to produce a tonne of paper," said Lachance. "The Canadian industry has state of the art mills with all the latest technologies."

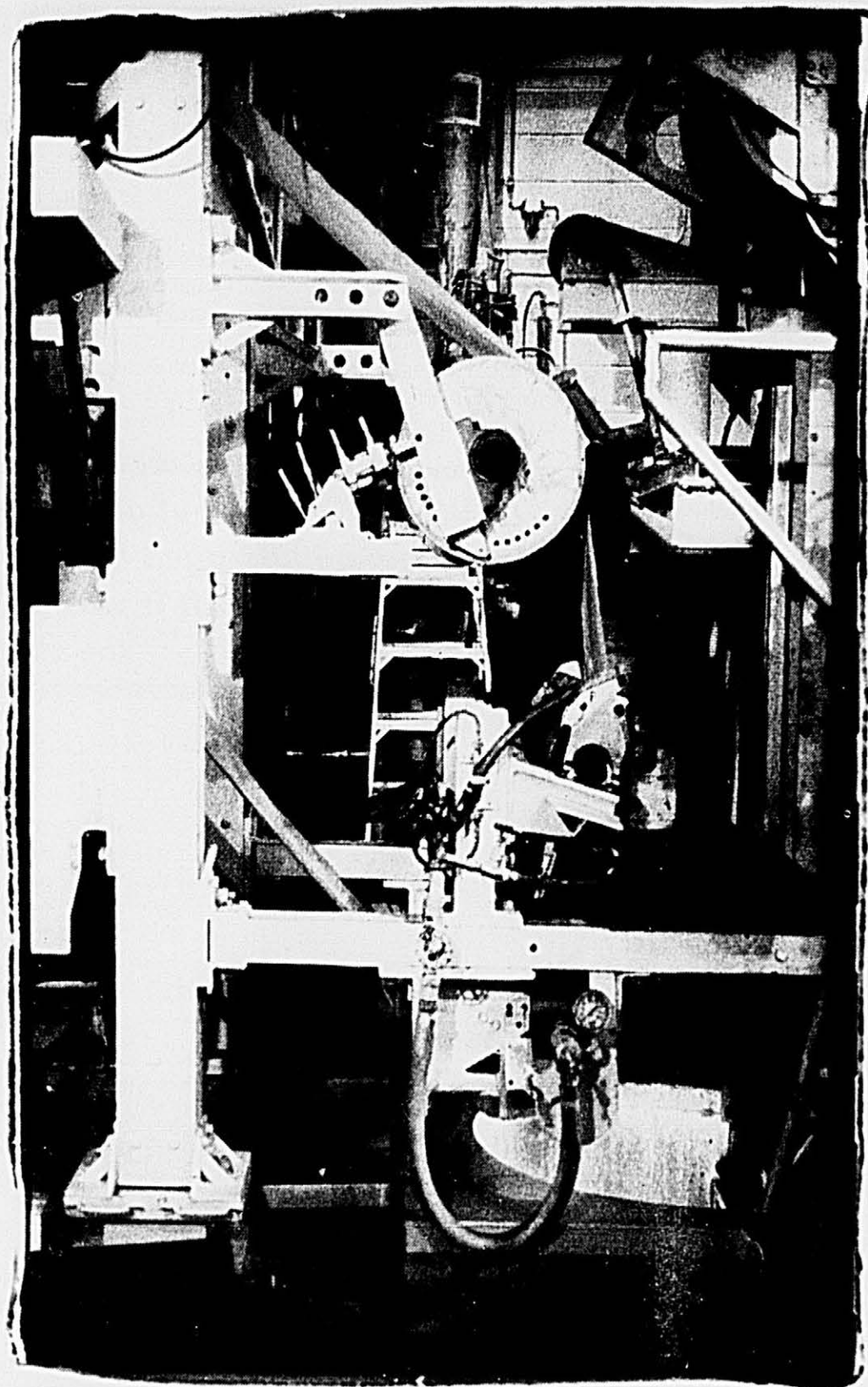
Lachance said regular trips are made into the forest and to mills to show the media and environmentalists what the industry does.

"I object to people telling us how to reforest and make paper when they have never visited a mill or been in a forest before," said Lachance.

But Perks said the public needs to force the industry to clean up further for its own good. He said the industry won't prosper if it doesn't adapt to chlorine free processes and more responsible forest management.

— Damion Stodola

BY DAMION STODOLA



DAILY PHOTO: TOM WHITE

A mainstay of the Canadian economy, the pulp and paper sector has acted with impunity for a century, manipulating both governments and the public.

Owned by some of the most powerful families in Canada — the Bronfmans, the Reichmans and the Desmarais — the pulp and paper industry has also served to generate quick profits for other Canadian conglomerates owned by the same families.

In 1990, the Ministry of the Environment of Québec published a report classifying the pulp and paper industry as the largest single industrial polluter, accounting for 63 per cent of the organic waste dumped into rivers.

The industry claims to have cleaned up its act, but environmentalists say the industry's efforts have been misdirected and that if the industry does not improve further, it will run itself into ruin.

Although Greenpeace and other environmental groups criticize the pulp and paper industry's environmental record, the industry has spent billions of dollars trying to reduce its environmental impact.

Pierre Lachance, a media relations officer for the Canadian Pulp & Paper Association (CPPA), said the industry is changing face. "We are becoming very involved with environmentalists and the media in showing them what we have done," he said.

According to the industry's 1991 annual report, mills across Canada have spent \$1.5 billion since 1988 on effluent treatment systems, process changes and new technology.

The industry has reduced chlorine use and has also dramatically reduced its discharge of dioxins and furans (the active ingredients in Agent Orange).

It has also pledged an additional \$3 billion to meet new government regula-

tions by 1995.

In May 1992, the CPPA, which represents almost all the mills in Canada, adopted guiding principles for forest land management.

The guidelines commit member companies to meet and exceed government regulations, encourage public awareness of the industry's operations and promote regular reviews of forest management performance.

The industry does admit to poor practices in the past, but maintains it has improved dramatically in the last decade.

Environmentalists disagree

Diane Goulet, pulp and paper critic for Greenpeace Québec, said the industry has neglected its environmental responsibilities.

"The industry has not reinvested enough money to keep up with current technologies," said Goulet.

Goulet said she could not understand why the industry is falling so behind at the hands of its owners. Goulet maintains the money is to be made in recycling and chlorine-free processes as in Scandinavia.

"They are ruining themselves financially," said Goulet.

According to Goulet, management refused to invest enough in research and development of cleaner processes.

"1987 to 1989 were record years for the pulp and paper industry," said Goulet. "But they gave all these profits back to shareholders."

Goulet believes the industry's stubbornness to adapt to consumer demands for cleaner and chlorine-free products has cost the industry financially.

She said Scandinavian mills have moved far ahead of Canada's sailing mills technically and environmentally. She attributes this to the fact that the Scandinavian industry has been able to

PULP & PAPER: AN INDUSTRY IN DECLINE?

ENVIRONMENTALISTS SKEPTICAL OF INDUSTRY CLEAN-UP EFFORTS

produce chlorine-free products, and to the strong legislative regulations imposed on mills.

"In Canada mills tried to show there was no problem with using chlorine," said Goulet. "Consequently, they only went one step further by substituting chlorine dioxide for chlorine, claiming chlorine-free processes were either not available or too expensive."

But Lachance said the industry is very aware of these changing attitudes. "We have salespeople who work with the customer on a daily basis," said Lachance. "I'm not going to let Greenpeace tell me who our customers are and what they want."

Greenpeace, which began its campaign in 1987 when dioxins were identified in the effluents of mills, has demanded mills discharge zero-impact effluent (effluent which would not have an impact on the environment).

Lachance does not believe a zero-impact effluent depends on eliminating chlorine totally from mill effluents.

"It is possible to have no-effect effluent using chlorinated products because we can treat the water waste before discharging it," said Lachance.

Gord Perks, spokesperson for Greenpeace Canada in Toronto, said the Canadian industry is light years behind the global industry. "Even the U.S. has demanded Canadian mills catch up to its standards," said Perks.

Perks said the U.S. industry is one of the worst and believes the Canadian industry to be even further behind.

"Environmentalists oversimplifying"

Lachance said there is a danger of taking environmentalists' accusations too seriously. "They are oversimplifying the situation," he said.

"Canada has state-of-the-art mills that can compete globally," said Lachance. He admitted many mills are old, especially in Québec and the Maritimes but said you can't lump all mills into the same barrel.

CPPA currently has two binding documents which must be observed by all member companies. Lachance believes these documents, the Environmental Statement of Principles and the Guiding Principles on Land Management have allowed the industry to adapt to the trend of cleaner processes.

"The industry is very aware of consumer demands and attitudes," said Lachance.

He also said the CPPA is currently engaged in pushing for global standards which would help measure the performance of mills worldwide.

"Mills in Sweden have their problems as well, they are not a perfect industry," said Lachance. He said despite strict regulations on chlorine, some Swedish mills still use it.

"There is a large diversity of mills in

all countries," said Lachance. He said even Sweden has bad and out-of-date mills.

Industry abusing forests

Perks said all the money the industry has spent on improving reforestation methods is irrelevant.

"The rate of logging has gone up dramatically," said Perks. "Over the last decade they have cut as many trees as have been cut during the last 50 years."

According to the industry annual report, in 1991 the industry reforested 115 per cent of what it harvested that year, representing a net gain in forests.

But Perks said the numbers are misleading. "One quarter of what's planted does not survive."

Perks also said the industry's efforts at reforestation are actually detrimental to the forest ecosystem. According to Perks, the industry only replants the trees it wants to harvest, resulting in a homogeneous forest.

"Successful forest ecosystems require a large biodiversity to support all the flora and fauna in the forests," said Perks. "Industry reforestation does not consider the loss of genetic diversity. They're supposed to be running a forest, not a fibre-farm."

"They use pesticides to ensure only the trees they want survive," he added.

According to the Brundtland Report, a United Nations report published in 1987 dealing with the conflict between industry and the environment, proper forest management involves setting aside protected areas in each forest to ensure the preservation of genetic diversity.

The report said a minimum of 12 per cent for each type of tree species should be set aside to ensure it would survive logging.

Perks said scientists have now proven that figure should be closer to 18 per cent. "This area insures that if you lose a species, you can restock it."

But Lachance maintains the industry is very conscious of its reforestation techniques. He said Greenpeace's opinion was an over-simplification of the situation.

"We only operate on one quarter of one per cent of Canada's forests," said Lachance. He said because the industry is responsible for the land it uses, it is in its best interests to maintain the best forest possible.

"Only five years after we reforest, one can see the evidence of a new forest developing," he said.

Lachance said reforestation techniques take biodiversity into account, and that reforested areas are just as genetically rich as before logging.

"Half of the area we replant does so naturally anyway," said Lachance. He also said the resulting forest is better for the forest ecosystem. "The new forest is younger and richer than the previous

over-mature forest we harvest."

Government also to blame

Environmentalists concur the government is partly to blame for the dismal shape of the pulp and paper industry.

Although the federal government did adopt regulations in 1971, these laws only applied to organic waste and not the toxins also emitted in the effluents.

"The government has been pressured and driven by the industry to delay legislation," said Goulet.

Goulet said Sweden has already imposed strict regulations effectively forcing mills to become chlorine-free.

The Québec government has not acted quickly either. It was not until

1979 that the provincial government imposed its own regulations, which only regulated mills built after 1979.

Goulet points out the regulations were totally ineffective because they were too lax. "Look at how many mills are not complying with these laws," she said.

According to a Québec environment ministry report published in 1990, only 75 per cent of the mills were in accordance with the regulations.

Goulet said the government must no longer bend to industry pressure. By forcing the industry to change its practices, Goulet said the government would finally bring the industry in line with the rest of the world.

Sylvie Marier, press attaché for Pierre

Paradis, minister of the environment, said the new regulations recently imposed on the industry also regulate toxins and are therefore much stricter.

"The new regulations represent major gains for the environment," said Marier.

But Perks said Québec's laws are still far behind those of Ontario and British Columbia. B.C. has passed legislation which will end the use of chlorine by the year 2000.

Perks said over 1000 pollutants are produced when using chlorine to bleach paper. "Of those 1000, we only have good scientific knowledge about 12 of them, of which only two are regulated, dioxins and furans," said Perks.

PAPRICAN: HELPING INDUSTRY GET AHEAD

Initiated at McGill over 80 years ago, the Pulp & Paper Research Center of Canada (Paprican) has attained international status as a leader in industry research.

Employing over 375 scientists and support staff, it serves the industry by developing more efficient and cleaner processes of making pulp and paper.

The center is almost completely funded by its member companies which represent almost all the mills in Canada.

Martin MacLeod, a media relations officer for Paprican, makes no apologies for being entirely funded by industry. "We are open, without reservation or apology, an industrial research organization," said MacLeod.

Diane Goulet and Gord Perks, both of Greenpeace, questioned the value of Paprican's research given it is supported by the industry.

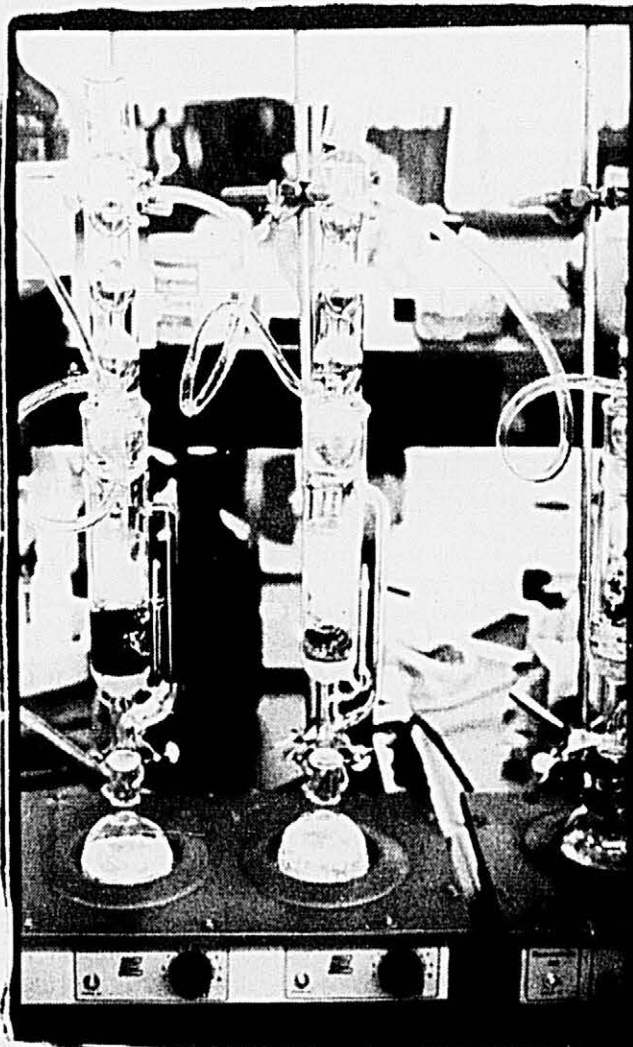
"I believe they have a few biases in favour of the industry," said Goulet.

"Most of their stuff is garbage," said Perks. "They're dedicated to proving the industry has done enough."

But MacLeod dismissed such allegations. "The industry doesn't exert much control at all," said MacLeod.

Paprican's headquarters in Pointe-Claire includes a huge center containing mill machinery as well as specialized labs and a comprehensive technical library.

As well as the research that goes on in the lab, Paprican uses a scaled down version of a pulp mill. This enables them to test new technologies to determine their efficiency before



A dioxin reduction experiment at Paprican labs.

TOM WHITE

putting them into practice.

One important factor in the research is cost. It is clear to all involved that pollution must be reduced. There currently exist bleaching techniques that produce fewer pollutants, but the cost is economically unfeasible, according to industry representatives.

One problem the industry faces is that it is the consumer who is going to pick up all the costs of more expensive processes.

In a tour of the center, the *Daily* visited the biotechnology center at Paprican, currently in developing ways to remedy problems associated with chlorine bleaching.

MacLeod said when the concept of forming a biotechnology lab was first introduced 15 years ago, it was very unpopular. "But we convinced the industry it was an important step to take," said MacLeod.

The lab is currently examining the potential of xylanase, which could be partially substituted for

chlorine in the bleaching process.

Paprican also has a lab devoted to reducing dioxins and furans. "We have successfully eliminated 95 per cent of the dioxins from effluents since it was discovered in 1987," said MacLeod.

In addition to other environmental studies, the center has also set up strong ties with McGill, École Polytechnique and UBC. Funded partially by government grants, Paprican has set up National Centers of Excellence where graduate students can do internships to gain practical experience.

— Tom White & Damion Stodola

THE MCGILL DAILY

comment

McGill — A Stagnation

A week ago, Montréal hosted La Ville en Rose, a conference on gay and lesbian issues. This conference assembled academics from all over Canada and the United States.

McGill, among Canada's top-rated universities, can boast loudly about the five (5!!!) academics and students who bothered to present papers and/or chair discussions.

McGill's virtual non-participation in this new and vibrant field of study is just one sign of a disturbing trend in McGill's Faculty of Arts.

This trend is also exemplified by the cold and distant attitude of the faculty towards the members of the Black Students' Network's campaign for an Africana Studies programme, the lack of women's studies courses, and the general disarray of programmes like film and communications. All these factors point towards stagnation, not growth.

The most common excuse is that there simply is not enough money. Certainly the government is in no hurry to give money to Arts programs, favouring funding for Science and Engineering.

But the kind of stagnation we see here at McGill can not be explained away by waving around the budget. Other Canadian universities in similar financial situations manage to come up with innovative courses giving fresh insights into subjects such as women's and Black History.

The fact of the matter is that McGill is a conservative place, often very hesitant to take up new ideas, or to consider new avenues in teaching and academic thinking. The people that make the Arts department what it is tend to favour courses that look at the world the same old way, considering such courses as women's or queer studies not as legitimate alternative perspectives, but as "extras" not worth budgeting for. Only after enough other universities start taking these new programs seriously will McGill take notice and act.

As a result we have a Faculty of Arts afraid to innovate, and afraid to try teaching with new perspectives and new methods. This is in complete contradiction to what a university is supposed to be. A university should be a crucible where the new ideas which shape society can be created and grow.

A university should be a leader, not a follower. Few people in the administration would disagree with us on that point.

If a university refuses to innovate in all areas of research, rather than just a small elite group, then ultimately it loses its relevance, becoming a dusty museum of the ideas of the past, rather than a living creative community responding to the changing needs of society.

James Forbes
Fiona McCaw

Letters...

Where the Sheep have No Name

To the Daily:

I'll keep my response to Andrew Bono's letter of November 18th as brief as possible, as his attention span seems to waver after three hundred words, upon which he stops reading and begins counting. O Science! If the *Daily* had such a problem as Mr. Bono's with the length of my letter, they wouldn't have printed it in full. I won't oblige Mr. Bono by writing this letter in German, mainly because there is no sufficient German word for expressing fully the concept of "pinhead".

I'm surprised he found the meaning of "puerile" in my letter instead of looking it up, since Chuck MacDonald's (dare I say "ontological"? status as a "wet dream for an abusive employer" betrays an intriguing fascination with bodily glucose emissions.

As Mr. Bono (BSc, bio-organic chemistry) demands, "...let me write about glucose". I certainly have no problem with that, as long as it's safe, clean, tasty, and good for me too.

It was never my intention to belittle Mr. McDonald personally, but rather his pseudo-arguments and his penchant (before "poseur" and after "pander" in the dictionary) for the obvious. Well, I read my correspondence several times over, and wished real hard, but like, nothing has happened. Boy, I sure feel stupid. Unlike Mr. Bono, I failed to see the cause-effect relationship between reading my mail and getting a fair deal. Like many others, I have no other choice but to support a TA union. And unlike some people, I haven't been told how to vote.

Matthew Pollard
Ph.D. 3 German

ONE DAY, WHILE
SPRAYING THE STUDENT
BODY WITH STUDENTICIDE,
THE ADMINISTRATION
STOPPED TO REFLECT...



... letters

Oh-so-Impressed

To the Daily:

Re: Ian Hay's letter re: bell hooks

Ian Hay, I am now enlightened after reading your oh-so-impressive letter. Suddenly I realized that we're being too hard on white folks and that the Great White Male Patriarchy has benefitted people of colour.

Thank you for slaughtering 80 million people of the First Nations in the Americas. Thank you for engaging in a legacy of raping non-colonialist nations of colour. Thank you for looking at non-whites as objects of slavery and exploitation. Thank you for inhabiting a space of domination which asserts your voice over ours.

How DARE you appropriate our suffering and attempt to disguise your guilt by attacking those who tell the truth. You are troubled by our anger, but you have yet to see our RAGE. Besides, as Audre Lorde has pointed out, it is not our anger that "launches rockets, sodomizes our daughters and our earth". It is not MY anger that glorifies neo-colonialism by calling it "aid" and annihilates an entire country for oil.

Deconstruct your whiteness privilege don't vilify those who are already down. It isn't terribly courageous.

It IS courageous, however, to address your inherent racism, your pathological need to justify the actions of your ancestors, your arrogance in assuming that you can speak to our collective pain.

We do not seek domination, aggression, or militarism - these are your methods. We DO seek moral justice. We will make you see our bleeding and force you to acknowledge your weapons which caused these wounds. And we will give voice to the bleeding, for it is the blood of our rage. You can't escape it — your legacy of murder is on our bodies. We will never be silent, nor will we be victims. We have the power to define ourselves and the strength to resist.

Rima Banerji, U1 Arts
SHAKTI Women of Colour Collective

An erudite thing

To the Daily,

What a delightful change it was to read an article of genuine academic interest in the *Daily*. Emmanuel C. Bourbouhakis's review of John Ellis's *Against Deconstruction* (*Daily Culture* Nov. 12) was the most well written and erudite thing I've ever read in any McGill student paper (letter pages excluded). Well Done.

M. Doerksen
Visiting Student

TA Union? Know More?

To the Daily:

We would like to point out the important issues not being addressed in the TA Referendum this week. The whole exercise is really a power grab by the CSN (*Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux*, president: Gérald Larose), a Québec-based federation of assorted labour and trade unions. They have strong ties to political parties, and a tradition of confrontational and work-disruption tactics (see CSN workers on strike at Place Ville-Marie).

We have little in common with these powerful interests; student issues are secondary in their drive for political dominance. More union membership means bigger financial and power base they'll control. At least two percent of TA paycheques will be deducted as union dues going to the CSN coffer, with additional money taken off for contract negotiators, newsletters, staffing, and union meeting expenses.

Let's not lose sight of the big picture. Graduate students are already a privileged

small percentage of the population. Post-graduate study is financed heavily by Canadian taxpayers and government subsidies at the expense of the vast majority of society. We are here at McGill for the cultural and intellectual learning experiences, and to get a quality education. Let's not be manipulated by the CSN's political agenda to the detriment of the university.

This forced bondage of students with labour and trade unions will lead to conflicts and disruption of classes (several strikes have occurred at other universities). Confrontations and resultant acrimonious feelings will very much negatively affect and corrupt the research and learning atmosphere. A more responsive student-oriented association free of outside political interference, can be organized to resolve TA grievances.

We urge all graduate students to understand clearly what we are agreeing to. Say NO to a CSN-run TA union.

NO to ulterior political motives, NO to diverted funds. Vote NO to a Bad Deal.

Jason Pan
Frank Glass
Graduate Students,
Earth and Planetary Sciences

Ed. note: The portion of union dues going to the CSN under a TA union would be 0.72 per cent, not 2 per cent. No additional money will be taken off for union meetings, contract negotiators, newsletters, or staffing by the CSN. Furthermore, the CSN has nothing to do with the decision of a local whether or not to strike — that decision resides with the local alone.

erratum

In "Living on the Lowest Common Denominator" (Wednesday, November 18), in the Welfare rights group listings, Linda Lemay is no longer associated with the Coalition for the Rights of Welfare Recipients. Instead contact Rob Case or Spike Coles at 874-9037. The *Daily* regrets the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.



SINCE 1911

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14 - Notices

Denver, Colorado? World Youth Day 1993! See Pope John Paul II. See the

Rockies! For information, leave your name and number with McGill Chaplaincy 398-4106.

McGill Chaplaincy - The Exam Drop-In is open! Redpath Library, Monday-Friday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., November 23 to December 11. In the reading room to the right of the main entrance (Room 07). Tips and handouts on coping with stress, writing exams & surviving the exam period! Informal, no appointments, no fees. Info: 398-4104.

Amateur Radio Club of McGill University (ARCMU) is back! Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 25, 7PM, McConnell Engineering Room 437. Info: Andrew (VE2HHS) 481-1582, Silver@EE470.EE.McGill.CA All are welcome!

Retreat for Catholic Students. Jan. 15-17, sponsored by Newman Centre. Theme: "Praying Scripture in My Daily Life." Deadline: Jan. 8. Cost: \$50. For info and registration: 398-4106.

Want to Talk? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) sponsors two discussion groups at the Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer, above Milton, on Fridays. A coming out support group meets at 5:30, and a discussion group meets at 7:30. A great way to find out about yourself and others.

Confused or Curious? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) is restarting peer counselling. Anyone interested in finding out about LBGM or has questions about their sexuality is welcome to drop by room 417, Shatner or call 398-6822. Hours are during lunch and 7 to 10, Monday through Saturday.

16 - Musicians

Music Opportunity: to organize an orchestra (pop, rock) music for exercise and concert in Montreal and all around the world I need some (girls) students in music. Conditions of admission: 1) knowledge of musical instruments; 2) knowledge in composition of songs; 3) to be available to practice every night until the end of exercises in Montreal. If necessary for the candidates admitted the use of the apartment shared is free. For all other information, please contact me at 731-2045. Leave your message. Thank you.

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Refugee students never know what the future holds

by Christina Varga
Toronto (CUP)

H. is an undergraduate political science major at York and, along with most students, is looking a little tired these days as the essay crunch hits. But H. is also facing another kind of deadline — one whose consequences are much more serious than a 'D' on a final paper. H. came to Canada as a refugee and may be facing deportation. If returned to his native Iran he fears he faces imprisonment and possibly torture for his political views.

HE IS ABOUT to face a tribunal which will accept or reject his claim for refugee status on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. If he is rejected, H. will have to face another tribunal to establish the credibility of his refugee claim. If he is rejected again, then he will be deported.

When I am surprised at how calmly he has told me this, he says this is nothing new. As we sipped our coffees in a quiet office in the student centre, H. told of his six-year struggle.

He came to Canada from Iran in 1986 under a program that recognized the need to grant speedy asylum to people from countries with well-documented histories of human rights abuses. But six months after he arrived, the legislation was changed and he was relegated to a backlog.

Time and time again he was told to come back in one year, in another year, in six months. As mail was sent to wrong addresses and H. was given the runaround, a supervisor finally admitted to having lost his file.

"It's hard enough for refugees to go through leaving your homeland, friends and family," he said. "Some people even experience torture and imprisonment. Then, to come to a place where you are not welcome, and experience delays on top of that, it's harmful to people — there are some people who actually commit suicide."

"My case is different because I speak the language, know my rights and stick up for them. Treatment of other people that I have known, especially people of colour and peo-

ple who have trouble with English, is less than human. Even in my case, my freedom of movement is restricted. I have wasted six years while waiting for a decision on my claim. The uncertainty of not knowing whether or not I will be deported is very traumatic."

Walking trails

S. USED TO BE an immigrant screening officer in Somalia, so it's ironic that he found himself on the opposite side of the table as a refugee in Canada. He spoke to me at the Centre for Refugee Studies at York, where he is working until January.

"It is not easy to reach Canada from Africa," he told me. "I came to Canada because I speak English and you have a democratic and humanitarian history. I am a political science graduate and I worked with international organizations."

This is how S. came to be in danger in Somalia.

"When there was still a government, they suspected anyone who was educated and spoke out on behalf of human rights."

As the government disintegrated into warring factions, S. "walked trails to Kenya," leaving his wife and children in a relatively safe refugee camp in Ethiopia. As he started talking about the situation in Somalia, he became very agitated.

"When you are scared, you take many risks. I lost everything, even the calendar. The

trauma affected even my memory. For a long time I could not remember the smallest detail. Now that my wife has been able to join me and my refugee status has been accepted, I am starting to recover."

I spoke as well to students in several of the clubs and associations in the Student Centre. Most came to Canada as children of refugees and were not at the time aware of the details of their acceptance to Canada.

The Vietnamese students I talked to had lived in refugee camps, sometimes very unsanitary and violent ones. In some camps the food and water was rationed and one woman talked of the fear of guards raping women at night.

But most stressed that as children they were very adaptable. When they got to Canada, they had an easier time learning English than the adults, and most say that they only experienced slight discrimination from Canadian people, especially in school.

One man from El Salvador said that although people laughed at his accent and thought he was stupid in school, he is happy to live a life of peace in Canada. He was shot in the stomach in El Salvador.

"Everybody is strangers"

MUCH AS OTHER new Canadians, these students told of their attempts to integrate the cultural values of Canada with those of their original culture.

One contentious issue is gender relations. A Turkish man said he has moved away from Muslim tradition and he shares the responsibility of taking care of his son with his wife. A Vietnamese man says he finds Canadian women too aggressive.

Most say they find Canadian winters cold, but feel integrated into the society. This is in contrast to the refugees who came as adults and say they were forced to leave their countries and wish fervently to return.

I visited several ESL (English as a Second Language) classes housed in a high school in Toronto, with the idea of speaking to recent refugees of an older generation than the York students who spoke to me.

At first many of the ESL students didn't want to talk to me. One of the main fears of anyone of uncertain standing in a country is that making any kind of trouble will lead to immediate rejection of their case, or deportation, which, in the case of refugees, means incalculable danger.

When I explained that confidentiality would be strictly ensured, I was suddenly overwhelmed by their impassioned offers to tell their stories and voice their frustrations.

The first person who agreed to speak to me was a quiet Sri Lankan woman. Nervously fingering her dress, she asked me, "Will I be deported? I am really suffering from not knowing."

After having paid \$12 000 to a dubious "agency" in Sri Lanka in order to come here, she met a lawyer who wanted to convince her that legal aid would not accept her and that he required \$2000 for his services. Legal aid did take up her case, but now she worries that her lawyer is "not interested in my case".

She arrived illegally in Canada in 1987,

having journeyed through Malaysia, Hong Kong, San Francisco and Chicago, accompanied by a member of the "agency" who had provided her with documents. She was finally left in Buffalo, where her documents were taken back to be recycled in Sri Lanka.

"I am happy to have someone to listen," she told me, "Everybody is strangers."

She spends her time playing cards with other immigrants in her apartment building, and making sari blouses on a sewing machine bought with the help of social services.

"You just want to make trouble"

M. CAME FROM TURKEY in 1986. He told a familiar story of bureaucratic delays (five years to attain landed immigrant status) and unscrupulous lawyers (\$1000 lost) in his effort to become settled in Canada.

He was dressed in a fashionable business suit and looked me straight in the eye as he told me how it is. He grew up as a street kid: determined to make it but stay out of trouble. He brings the same determination to Canada.

"Nobody invited me here to get a job. I'm hardworking." But he also talked of racism and wanting to stay out of trouble.

M. recounted some of his experiences: He got laughed at in bars because he couldn't pronounce the word "beer" properly. His bank tried to convince him that he could not close his bank account. He had a toothache and dentists would not pull his tooth, even for cash, because he did not have his S.I.N. number.

An apartment building would not take his application, even though the sign clearly said there were vacancies. He got into an accident when a car in front of him braked too suddenly. When he tried to convince the police officer that it was not his fault, she said to him, "You immigrants — I know you people. You just want to make trouble."

M. couldn't complain, because he didn't want to make trouble before getting status. During the five years that it took, he thought he could be arrested and deported anytime.

R. wore a black and beaded head covering and faced me intent to make me understand.

"This is my first chance that a person like you asks me what I have to say. I'm talking not just for myself but for all those fleeing political disaster and having the same problems: not knowing what to tell immigration, making yourself understood, getting information about government offices, understanding the new culture, loneliness."

It has been two years and she has not yet attained landed immigrant status, so there is nothing either she or Immigration can do to bring her husband to Canada.

"It is very hard here without my husband. We have been married for 20 years. I miss him and I can't help him. I have five children. I get a cheque from Family Benefits, but it is not enough. If I had my husband here to help it would be easier."

"I don't like to be on welfare. It is very hard to find a job here when you are not experienced. I try my best. I take ESL, but I have trouble helping my children with their education. If my husband were here, we could support each other."